

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 21, claims 14 to 20 and 22 to 26 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received from the International Bureau.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper and cited references.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter included in claim 21. In this regard, the Examiner will note that claim 14 has been amended herein without prejudice to include all of the features included in claim 21. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 14, as well as claims 15 to 20 and 22 to 26, which ultimately depend from claim 14, are in condition for immediate allowance.

III. Rejection of Claims 14 to 20 and 22 to 26 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

As regards the rejection of claims 14 to 20 and 22 to 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), while Applicants do not necessarily agree with the merits of this rejection, to facilitate matters, claim 14 has been amended herein without prejudice to include all of the features included in claim 21, which was indicated to include allowable subject matter. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the present rejection is moot, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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